



STATE SENATOR • LIZ BRATER • 18TH DISTRICT

# Brater Press Release

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## **BRATER ANNOUNCED NEW FIRE PROTECTION FUNDING FOR YPSILANTI AND ANN ARBOR**

LANSING—As a result of approval of the Michigan's supplemental appropriations bill today, fire protection grant funding doubled. Fire grants fund municipal fire protection for state buildings. Ypsilanti and Ann Arbor will both benefit substantially from this increase.

“Communities charged with the responsibility of caring for state buildings face a disproportionate burden to their local budgets that make it difficult for them to both provide the fire protection necessary for large state facilities and maintain other vital services within the community,” explained Brater. “These grants will ensure adequate funding to protect public safety.”

Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti are responsible for fire protection for the University of Michigan and Eastern Michigan University, respectfully. The city of Ypsilanti must also provide protection for the Huron Valley state prison. The state mandates fire protection service for these types of facilities, a considerable financial burden to municipalities. Every year, each of these cities provides services worth hundreds of thousands of dollars, but most years, they are reimbursed for less than half of those services. Increases for the coming year are as follows:

- City of Ann Arbor: \$331,000
- City of Ypsilanti: \$132,000
- Township of Ann Arbor: \$8,170

“The bottom line is that we need to fund public safety,” said Brater. “This new appropriation recognizes our commitment to building stronger families and safer communities.”

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*State Senator Brater represents Senate District 18 which includes the cities of Ann Arbor, Ypsilanti, and Chelsea, the Villages of Barton Hills and Dexter, and the following townships: Ann Arbor, Augusta, Dexter, Freedom, Lima, Lyndon, Northfield, Salem, Scio, Sharon, Superior, Sylvan, Webster and Ypsilanti. She is the minority vice chair of the natural Resources and Environmental Affairs Committee and the Agriculture, Forestry, and Tourism Committee.*